

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06

CCO-00 /064 W

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O 261015Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5033

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1443

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: END OF SOWETO WORK BOYCOTT: BLOODY TRIBAL CLASHES

1. EARLY MORNING (AUGUST 26) SITUATION REVEALED USUAL ROUTINE OF LIFE IN SOWETO AND JOHANNESBURG ALMOST FULLY RESTORED: SOWETO RESIDENTS BACK AT WORK, TRAINS, BUSES AND TAXIS OPERATING NORMALLY, AND SLOW SUBSIDENCE OF TRIBAL CLASHES.

2. LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 25) SAW BLOODY CLASHES BETWEEN ZULU HOSTELLERS FROM MZIMHLOPE SECTOR OF SOWETO AND OTHER SOWETO RESIDENTS, CHIEFLY SUTOS. RAND DAILY MAIL REPORT (AUGUST 26) STATED TWENTY KILLED IN CLASHES YESTERDAY, PERHAPS 200 WOUNDED AND INJURED. POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO CONFIRMED SIX DEAD, 100 INJURED.

3. SEVERAL CONGEN SOURCES HAVE PRESENTED VERY STRONG EVIDENCE THAT ZULU RAMPAGE WAS INSTIGATED AND GUIDED BY POLICE. RAND DAILY MAIL (AUGUST 26) CARRIED EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF POLICEMAN'S
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ADDRESSING ZULUS INSIDE HOSTEL AND SAYING:

"YOU ARE WARNED NOT TO CONTINUE DAMAGING THE HOUSES BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO THE WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD. IF YOU DAMAGE HOUSES, YOU WILL FORCE US TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST YOU TO PREVENT THIS. YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO KILL ONLY THESE TROUBLEMAKERS." MANY RESIDENTS WERE ALSO CITED AS HAVING HEARD ZULU HOSTELLERS SHOUT WHEN ATTACKING HOUSES AND RESIDENTS (IN ZULU): " WHERE IS BLACK POWER? WE OF N'KATHA KWA-ZULU ARE HERE NOW." POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO DENIED CHARGES OF COMPLICITY, SAYING ZULUS' N'KATHA ORGANIZATION WAS NOT SET AGAINST "BLACK POWER" FORCES IN SOWETO. "THE ZULUS HAVE BEEN HARASSED, ATTACKED AND HAD THEIR HOMES BURNT DOWN. THEY ARE SIMPLY RE- ACTING TO THE HARM DONE TO THEM."

4. GIBSON THULA, KWA-ZULU REPRESENTATIVE ON REEF, WAS ACTIVEH LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 25) TRYING TO SET UP A RECONCILIATION MEETING BETWEEN ZULU HOSTEL LEADERS AND SOWETO STUDENTS' SPOKESMEN, NOTABLY DR. MANAS BUTHELEZI, CHAIRMAN OF BLACK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION. THULA WAS ALSO RECOMMENDING TO CHIEF BUTHELEZI THAT HE VISIT ZULU HOSTELS AT MZIMHLOPE. CONGEN BELIEVES SUCH EFFORTS ARE BEST HOPE FOR COOLING HOT BLOOD NOW UP BETWEEN ZULUS AND OTHER RESIDENTS (WHO INCLUDE ZULUS AS WELL). BUTHELEZI WOULD BE HEARD, AS POLICE WILL NOT, SINCE THEY HAVE CONVINCED TOO MANY THEY ARE NO LONGER NEUTRAL.

5. WORK ATTENDANCE BACK TO NEARLY 100 PERCENT IN JOHANNESBURG FOLLOWING THREE-DAY BOYCOTT. ALL BLACK CONGEN EMPLOYEES BACK IN OFFICE SAVE ONE (AARON SELANE), WHO LIVES NEAR MZIMHLOPE SECTOR AND WHOSE WIFE SENT IN LETTER SAYING HE HAD BEEN STRUCK AND SERIOUSLY INJURED BY KERRIE-WIELDING ZULU IN IMPI GROUP WHICH BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE, BREAKING WINDOWS AND FURNITURE AND LOOTING PERSONAL EFFECTS. HIS AREA (KILLARNEY) ADJACENT MZIMHLOPE HOSTEL SECTOR LOOKS LIKE "TORNADO HIT IT", ACCORDING TO USIS EMPLOYEE WHO SAW IT YESTERDAY (AUGUST 25). TWO HUNDRED OR MORE HOUSES GUTTED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPTY.

6. COMMENT: IN COURSE OF TRYING TO CURB EFFICACY OF WORK BOYCOTT, POLICE HAVE SUCCEEDED ANEW IN CREATING BAD BLOOD BETWEEN TRIBAL GROUPS AND HOSTELLERS VS. RESIDENTS IN SOWETO. THEY HAVE ALSO INCREASED BLACK HOSTILITY TOWARD THEMSELVES. SUCCESS OF BOYCOTT WAS STARKLY CLEAR, AND

AS RESIDENTS RECOGNIZE IT AND WILL NOT BE SURPRISED
AT REPETITIONS IN FUTURE.
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